



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLN. OF: OKADA et al.

SERIAL NO.: 09/913,625

FILED: August 16, 2001

FOR: Hydrogen Storage Metal Alloy and Production Thereof

GROUP:

EXAMINER:

DOCKET: SHIG C11119

The Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRIOR ART DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled matter, Applicants hereby attach U.S. Patent Office Form PTO-1449, including copies of the prior art references listed therein and a copy of the Japanese Search Report issued in connection with a Novelty Search of Applicant's corresponding Japanese application. Some of the cited references are discussed in the specification. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over these references.

This prior art disclosure statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(A). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitute prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(A) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

In compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3), as a concise statement of relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designed in 35 U.S.C. § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, the undersigned attorney of record submits

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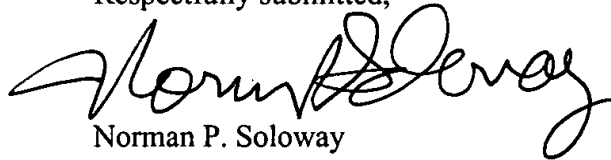
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a copy of the Japanese Search Report by a foreign examiner in which the references were cited. The relevance to the pending U.S. patent application is that the references were cited in a foreign patent application on the same subject matter. However, no independent analysis of the reference, the accuracy of the statement of foreign examiner or the claims of the foreign application under the laws of the country or the United States relative to the subject matter claimed in the present application has been made; the present understanding of the contents thereof by the undersigned being based on the translation of the foreign examiner's comments submitted therewith.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on November 16, 2001 at Tucson, Arizona.

By: Kim Hovel

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